

1903.

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THE  
**ANNUAL REPORTS**

OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**

AND OF THE  
**Sanitary Inspector**

OF THE  
**Paignton Urban District.**

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PAIGNTON :

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# **The Annual Report**

OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health,**

For the year ended December 31st, 1903.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Paignton  
Urban District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

Again I have the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report, the thirteenth, and am able to say that notwithstanding the exceptionally wet year the public health of this town has been good, as evidenced by the very low death rate. The calculations of the statistics are based upon an estimated population to the middle of the year of 8,650. At the risk of reiteration I must again refer to the question of air space about domestic buildings, and am gratified to find that more care is being taken to see the bye-laws in this respect are observed. The public health cannot but suffer if the

admission of sunlight and the free circulation of fresh air about the house be interfered with, and it is imperative, if our town is to maintain its position as a health resort that our bye-laws should be carefully observed in every respect.

#### Deaths

The deaths registered during the year were 97; of these 45 were males and 52 females, giving a death rate of 11·2 per 1,000 per annum. The average population for the last ten years was 7,725, and the average number of deaths was 108, giving a death rate of 13·9 per 1,000 per annum—thus you see that with an increased population of 925, the deaths for the past year were only 97, and the death rate 11·2 per 1,000 being a decrease of 2·7 per 1,000.

The following table shows the number of deaths at the various ages, viz.:—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	18
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	6
5 years and under 15 years	...	...	...	2
15 years and under 25 years	...	...	...	9
25 years and under 65 years	...	...	...	30
65 years and over	...	...	...	32
				<hr/>
				97

There were 11 deaths of persons over 70.

There were 11 deaths of persons over 80,  
and 2 deaths of persons over 90.

The following is a summary of the cause of death registered during the year :—

**TABLE IV.**  
*PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.*  
*CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES,							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards.	
Small Pox ... ..								
Measles ... ..								
Scarlet fever ... ..	1			1				
Whooping cough ... ..								
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ... ..								
Croup ... ..								
Fever { Typhus... ..								
{ Enteric... ..								
{ Other continued								
Epidemic influenza ... ..								
Cholera ... ..								
Plague ... ..								
Diarrhœa ... ..	3	3						
Enteritis ... ..	2	2						
Puerperal fever... ..								
Erysipelas ... ..								
Other septic diseases ... ..								
Phthisis ... ..	9				2	7		
Other tubercular dis- eases ... ..	7		1		3	3		
Cancer, malignant dis- ease ... ..	13				1	5	7	
Bronchitis ... ..	11	4	2				5	
Pneumonia ... ..								
Pleurisy ... ..								
Other diseases of res- piratory organs ... ..	3		1		1	1		
Alcoholism } ... ..	1					1		
Cirrhosis of liver } ... ..								
Venereal diseases ... ..	1	1						
Premature birth ... ..	5	5						
Diseases and accidents of parturition... ..								
Heart diseases ... ..	4					2	2	
Accidents ... ..	3	1				2		
Suicides ... ..	2				1		1	
All other causes ... ..	32	2	2	1	1	9	17	
All causes ... ..	97	18	6	2	9	30	32	



TABLE 1:

*VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1903 &  
PREVIOUS YEARS.*

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
		Number.	Rate#	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate#
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate#					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	7100	158	22·1	13	82·8	113	15·8					
1894	7230	170	23·4	18	105·8	94	13					
1895	7350	166	22·5	17	102·4	105	14·2					
1896	7420	166	22·2	11	66·4	106	14·2					
1897	7500	180	24·2	10	55·5	89	11·8					
1898	7700	161	20·9	19	118	95	12·3					
1899	7900	145	18·3	13	89·6	98	12·4					
1900	8150	166	20·3	21	126	141	17·1	No General Hospital or Work- house in the District, so that the previous figures may be taken as nett.				
1901	8400	178	21·2	11	61·8	119	14·1					
1902	8500	169	19·8	14	82·8	122	14·3					
Averages for years 1893-1902	7725	165·9	21·5	14·7	89·1	108·2	13·9					
1903	8650	156	18	18	115	97	11·2					

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in column 12 are the number in column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness, infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term of “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public Institutions” to be taken into account for the purpose of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	5177·5	
Total population at all ages	...	8,335	} At census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,785	
Average number of persons per hou.	...	4·7	

The infant mortality was 18, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to the number of births registered is 115 per 1,000, and is less satisfactory than usual, being an increase of 26 per 1000 over the average of the last ten years, but still below the average of Rural England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

There were 156 births registered, of these 83 were boys and 73 girls giving a birth rate of 18 per 1000 per annum, and is below both that of last year and also below the average of the last ten years, which was 21·5. The natural increase, excess of births over deaths, was 59.

Births.

The following table will no doubt interest you :

*VITAL STATISTICS OF ENGLAND & WALES FOR 1903.*

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.			
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.	Infant Mortality Annual death rate of Infants under 1 year of age to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales ...	28·4	15·4	1·46	132
Rural England & Wales	27·3	14·8	1·08	118
76 Great Towns ;	29·7	16·3	1·89	144
103 Smaller Towns ...	27·4	14·6	1·41	135
<b>Paignton</b> ...	<b>18·0</b>	<b>11·2</b>	<b>0·6</b>	<b>115</b>

Again Paignton has a good record, except for its low birth rate.

There were 77 notifications received during the year :

Notifications

Diptheria ... 3

Erysipelas ... 5

Scarlet Fever ... 64

Enteric Fever ... 5

77

Of these 77 notifications, 59 were received during the months of October, November and December, distributed as under :

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever	10	33	11
Enteric Fever		2	
Erysipelas	1	1	1

TABLE III.  
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING  
THE YEAR 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							No. of Cases Re- moved to Isolation Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small Pox ... ..								
Cholera ... ..								
Diphtheria ... ..	3			1	1	1		
Membranous croup ...								
Erysipelas ... ..	5			2		2	1	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	64		8	46	7	3		27
Typhus Fever ... ..								
Enteric Fever ... ..	5		1	2	2			3
Relapsing Fever ... ..								
Continued Fever ... ..								
Puerperal Fever ... ..								
Plague ... ..								
Varicella ... ..								
Totals ... ..	77		9	51	10	6	1	30

Infectious Diseases. The number of deaths registered as due to epidemic disease was 6, viz.: Scarlet Fever, 1; Diarrhœa 3, and Enteritis 2=6, giving a death rate of 0·6 per 1,000 per annum, and is a good record for the town. The consent of the Local Government Board was not obtained for a continuance of the Notification of Chicken Pox, but several cases



were voluntarily notified. An out-break of Scarlet Fever occurred in September, and became very serious in November when 33 cases were notified, and during this outbreak several cases of Chicken Pock and Mumps also occurred.

The deaths registered as due to Phthisis were 9, and Pthisis. fewer than last year, when 14 deaths occurred, giving for the year a death rate of 1.04 per 1,000, and below the average of Rural England. In all cases an effort has been made to disinfect the premises, but unfortunately we have met with unreasonable opposition, but one must not be discouraged, and the fact of the infectiveness of tuberculous discharges must be kept constantly before the public till it is recognised by them. Where rooms have been out of repair advantage has been taken of Sec. 46 of the Public Health Act of 1875, and a cleansing order has been issued.

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever has been a new experience for Paignton when 33 cases were notified in one month. Our isolation hospital was quickly filled so that cases had to be treated at home. From careful enquiries I feel sure Scarlet Fever was introduced into our Board Schools by children attending school from a house where an un-notified case occurred, and the reason given for such non-notification was that the isolation hospital was full. In the first week in November I recognised that Scarlet Fever had been introduced into our Board Schools and at once visited them and carefully examined the children, sending home every child with any sore throat accompanied by enlarged glands, as also any with suspicious nasal discharge. Next I took the name of every absent scholar the reason for whose absence was not known and visited all of them, with the result that I found several cases of Scarlet Fever which were subsequently notified by the family medical attendant whose attendance I advised the parents to obtain. In cases where I was suspicious and did not receive notification I visited again, Scarlet fever

keeping all children away from school having sore throats. My work was increased by the fact that at the same time there were several cases of Chicken Pox and also Mumps, and to add to it many parents took fright and kept their children home as a precautionary measure. Day after day I visited the schools and called upon all absentees and the result was that although there was a diminished attendance, the schools were kept going, and by the end of the year we had over 80 per cent of the children back in school. During this outbreak the usefulness of the isolation hospital has been clearly shewn, as evidenced by the following facts: where I have removed cases to the hospital in no instance has there been a second case, unless sickening at the time and occurring within less than a week, but where cases have been isolated (?) at home the following cases occurred, viz.: in one family 5 cases, in two families 3 cases each, and in four families 2 cases each, thus accounting for 19 cases, whereas could room have been found in the hospital probably only seven would have suffered.

#### Enteric Fever

We had 5 cases notified, three of which were treated in the isolation hospital. Two of the cases occurred outside our town water service, and were no doubt due to contaminated well water. Two of the cases were in very old houses with undesirable surroundings, but not sufficiently dilapidated to be condemned, and improvements were carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

#### Drainage.

With the abnormal amount of rain we have had the fact very plainly set before us, by the floodings in Dartmouth Road and the surcharged Torbay Road Sewers, of the necessity in the near future of a big drainage scheme being carried out. If as is expected when the moor water is brought into the town, building goes on at all rapidly, it will be impossible to continue with our present drainage.

This is done by employees of the Council. Although Scavenging. several complaints have been made by the ratepayers that the men do not do the work as well as they might, there is another side of the question, the men's side. In many cases householders pay no attention to the condition of their dustbins, and the men complain that very much of the house refuse is so wet that it is impossible to carry it away in their maunds, baskets, without getting wet themselves. The work is disagreeable enough without this wet condition, and notices served to put dustbins into proper repair are treated with such small respect that I consider the men's complaint is a fair one, and householders have only themselves to blame in many instances. This question of the condition of dustbins is such that the Council would do well to issue summonses on offenders. With the increasing bulk of house refuse there is increasing difficulty of disposing of it, but at present I am not inclined to advise a destructor, for agricultural land is still within a reasonable distance.

Again, thanks to a wet year, the town has been well Water. supplied with water, and there has been few cases of inconvenience, even on the high levels. The work at Holne, on the new water-works has been considerably retarded by the adverse weather condition, still the engineer and the Council consider on the whole that fair progress has been made. Good progress has been made on the pipe line, and I understand the new service reservoir at Marlton is to be proceeded with this spring, 1904.

Many visits have been paid to these independently of Slaughter Houses, the Sanitary Inspector, who will report more fully as to Dairies, their condition. Two bakehouses have been closed, and various Milkshops and necessary alterations have been made in others, before a Bakehouses. licence was granted by the Council.



Workshops. Throughout the town the workshops are in good condition, and I have not found any case of overcrowding. Repairs have been carried out in several laundries, and a new steam laundry has been established.

Isolation Hospital. The Isolation Hospital has again proved most useful, as evidenced by my report on Scarlet Fever. The accomodation there was used to its utmost capacity, and an extension will be desirable before very long. Thirty cases were admitted during the past year.

Vaccination The following is the report of Mr. Revell the Vaccination Officer :—

Births registered in Paignton, 156.				
Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	109
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	12
Conscientious Objection Certificate			...	1
Removed from Paignton	...	...	...	1
Insusceptible	...	...	...	1
Postponed by Medical Certificate...			...	2
Unvaccinated under 6 months old			...	30
				<hr/> 156

The above is a very satisfactory Report, but I have not heard much of any revaccination. Mr. Crathorn's, the Sanitary Inspector's Report will be duly submitted to you shewing the large amount of work necessary in his department.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. W. VICKERS, D.P.H.,

February 14th, 1904.

Medical Officer of Health.



# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

For the Year ended December 31st, 1903.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Paignton  
Urban District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the following my Ninth Annual Report, and congratulate you on the continual improvement in the sanitary condition of the town.

The general public are more carefully inquiring into the Sanitary state of houses and apartments before taking them, and demanding recent certificates as to their Sanitary condition. Certificates.

Numerous applications have been made for the use of the smoke and water tests, and defects exposed made good. Drains. Inspection chambers are becoming more general, thus simplifying work on the drains. Many masons' traps found in the older houses have been destroyed and intercepting trap put in, all D and bell traps replaced by earthenware gullies. As a rule owners of properties willingly comply with my requirements. The use of the fresh air inlets does not seem to be understood, for in several instances I have

found them carefully covered over, and wish to impress upon the public that if their drains are to be kept sweet, fresh air must be admitted. Again I have to complain of interference with drains without giving me notice, and covering them up without giving me an opportunity of seeing and examining the work. The annual flushing of the long terrace sewers at St. Michaels, Well Street and Colley End was duly carried out, and will be repeated this year.

#### Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse is done by the employees of the Council, and in a fairly satisfactory manner, but the work could be made much lighter if the inhabitants would burn more of the vegetable refuse, and liquids should not go into the dustbins. So far there has not been any difficulty in finding people willing to take the town refuse.

#### Ashpits

By the direction of the Council I have made a careful examination as to the condition of the dustbins of part of the town, and found very many in a defective condition. Some have been repaired, but many have provided the much more sanitary dustbins.

#### Water.

No shortage has been found this year, and town water has been laid on to many properties, old and new. One well found unfit for domestic purposes was closed. Again I would advise the public to have their water cisterns cleaned out as soon as possible while water is plentiful.

#### Disinfection

Disinfectants have been supplied free where infectious cases existed, and rooms have been disinfected at the end of the cases; unfortunately I could not get permission to disinfect in all cases of death from consumption.

#### Dairies, Milkshops, &c.

The routine examination of premises registered has been carried out and as a whole found satisfactory, but much greater care ought to be taken with the cow houses. Many are in a very dirty condition, and some out of repair and not

in accordance with the regulations. Milk dealers seem to be quite unable to understand that cleanliness in and about the cowhouses is necessary, and in reply to my complaints am told the cattle are only brought in for milking, still by frequent looking up I hope to get improvements,

These have been regularly visited and found satisfactory. Bakehouses.  
Two underground have been closed, and any suggestions for improvements generally willingly carried out.

A large number of workshops and laundries have been Workshops.  
visited by me during the year.

Frequent visits have been paid, and I found them well Slaughter-  
Houses.  
kept, but those in or near the centre of the town are certainly in an undesirable situation, and apt to become a nuisance.

I am sorry to report that the Council have not taken any action in regards to my reports for several years as to the providing of additional sanitary accommodation for the public; also as to the very bad state of some of the back roads.

The number of new houses built was 49 and is a New Houses.  
decrease on last year. The drains and sanitary arrangements have been examined and tested. Inspection chambers are becoming more general. I am pleased to report that a great improvement has taken place both in workmanship and materials used for sanitary work.

Numerous Notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances, a summary of which is given with other work at the end of this Report, many of these notices have been quickly complied with, but there is one case still under consideration. In conclusion I beg to express my thanks to the Council for supporting me in the exercise of my duty, and also for the privilege of attending the Congress of Public Health at Exeter.

Complaints received and attended to	...	11
Houses inspected	... ..	449
Notices, preliminary	... ..	9
Notices, legal	... ..	70
Drains choked	... ..	7
Drains tested	... ..	47
Drains defective	... ..	34
Drains taken up and re-laid	... ..	11
Drains, new system	... ..	18
Inspection Chambers to old premises	...	23
Interceptors fitted	... ..	31
Gullies in place of defective D & bell traps		71
Washdown W.C.'s in place of pan con- tainers and long hoppers	... ..	38
Water waste preventors fitted	... ..	10
Water waste preventors repaired	... ..	17
Soil Pipes in wall destroyed ..	... ..	14
Soil pipes repaired	... ..	18
Ashpits repaired	... ..	15
Galvanised ashbins provided	... ..	211
Offensive accumulations removed	... ..	4
Animals removed	... ..	3
New W.C.'s built	... ..	5
Town water laid on to old premises	...	11
Infectious cases removed to Hospital	...	29
Houses disinfected	... ..	40
Houses cleansed	... ..	6
Cesspools closed and houses connected to sewer	... ..	7
Samples of well water...	... ..	1
Contaminated	... ..	1
Workshops and laundries visited	... ..	93
New houses built	... ..	49
Milk condemned as unfit for use	... ..	1

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CRATHORN, C.S.I.